

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HONG K 00945 240843Z  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ORM-02 DHA-02 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 NSC-05 /076 W  
-----240931Z 019540 /22

R 240757Z JAN 77  
FM AMCONGEN HONG KONG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3514  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION GENEVA  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 00945

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, SREF, VS, HK  
SUBJECT: HONG KONG EVACUATION FLIGHT FROM SAIGON

REF: HONG KONG 540

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: HONG KONG GOVERNMENT CHARTERED CATHAY  
PACIFIC 707 ARRIVED HERE FROM SAIGON JANUARY 22 WITH 162  
CHINESE EVACUEES ABOARD. AT KAI TAK AIRPORT A HKG IMMIGRATION  
OFFICER ANNOUNCED THAT ANOTHER FLIGHT WOULD BE SCHEDULED AS  
SOON AS ANOTHER 160 HK VISA HOLDERS WERE READY TO LEAVE  
(I.E. RECEIVED VIETNAMESE EXIT VISAS). HE PUBLICLY THANKED  
THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT FOR THEIR COOPERATION IN REPATRIATION  
PROCEDURES. END UNCLASSIFIED

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: ACCORDING TO HK IMMIGRATION THERE  
ARE ABOUT 1800 PERSONS IN SAIGON NOW HOLDING HK ENTRY VISAS:  
ANOTHER 800 APPLICATIONS FOR HK ENTRY VISA CASES ARE PENDING  
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PAGE 02 HONG K 00945 240843Z

AND OVER 5,000 HAVE BEEN REJECTED.

3. ALL EVACUEES ON THE LATEST FLIGHT HELD AIR VIETNAM TICKETS  
ISSUED IN VIETNAM AT A COST OF US\$172 CASH. THESE TICKETS  
WERE PURCHASED EVEN IF THE PASSAGE HAD ALREADY BEEN PAID IN  
HONG KONG. IN A FEW CASES IF THE EVACUEE HAD NO FUNDS, THE  
VIETNAMESE ISSUED A TICKET AFTER THE EVACUEE SIGNED AN

AGREEMENT THAT THE FARE WOULD BE PAID AT A LATER DATE. A HK IMMIGRATION OFFICER EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS A VIETNAMESE REGULATION THAT EVERY PERSON LEAVING SAIGON MUST BE IN POSSESSION OF A TICKET AND THAT THE HKG WOULD ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN A REFUND FOR THE EVACUEES AT A LATTER DATE.

4. FOLLOWING THE FIRST TWO FLIGHTS IN DECEMBER THE VIETNAMESE RECEIVED A BAD PRESS IN THE LOCAL HK PAPERS AS A RESULT OF STORIES OBTAINED FROM SOME EVACUEES. HK IMMIGRATION FEARED THAT A CONTINUATION OF THESE CRITICAL STORIES COULD JEOPARDIZE THE EVACUATION AND CONSEQUENTLY EMPHASIZED TO THE LATEST GROUP THAT THEY SHOULD NOT TALK TO THE PRESS, WHICH RESULTED IN HEADLINES OF "EVACUEES WARNED NOT TO TALK."

5. IN ANOTHER STEP TO SMOOTH WATERS WITH THE VIETNAMESE, A HK IMMIGRATION OFFICER ORDERED THAT A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BE MADE THANKING THE SRV FOR THEIR COOPERATION, WHICH WAS DONE AS NOTED IN PARA ONE. IN GIVING HIS INSTRUCTIONS, HOWEVER, THE IMMIGRATION OFFICER SAID THAT THE THANKS NOT BE TOO PROFUSE SO AS NOT TO ANNOY "BIG BROTHER" (E.E. THE CHINESE). COMMENT: IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE HOW THE HKG PERCEIVE PRC-SRV RELATIONS AND TO WHAT LENGTHS THEY WILL GO TO AVOID OFFENDING THE CHINESE. END CONFIDENTIAL  
CROSS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEES, EVACUATIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977HONGK00945  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 HONG KONG 540  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, SREF, VS, HK  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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